



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re application of)
)
Andreas Ewald Heinrich BERNARD)
Lars KEIL)
Manfred Herrmann LIEBLER)
)
Application No. : 10/564,080)
)
Filed : January 11, 2006)
)
For : DEVICES AND METHODS)
FOR RAISING AND/OR)
LOWERING A PRINTING)
FORM)

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The subject U.S. patent application, as filed, included the submission of various documents from the prosecution of the corresponding PCT application. Those documents were in the German language. There are now submitted English language translations of these documents, as follows.

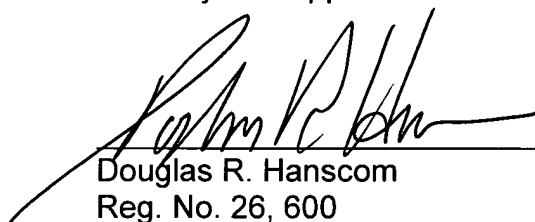
- A) Request for Payment of Additional Fees, mailed February 1, 2005
- B) Response by KBA, dated February 4, 2005
- C) International Search Report and Written Notification, mailed April 8, 2005
- D) Response by KBA, dated April 27, 2005
- E) IPER, mailed October 21, 2005

Entry of these materials into the file of the subject U.S. patent application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

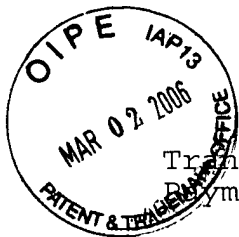
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March 2, 2006
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Attorney Docket: W1.2343 PCT-US



Translation of the pertinent portions of a Request for
Payment of Additional Fees, mailed 02/01/2005

1. The International Search Authority

i) is of the opinion that the international application contains 3 inventions, which are contained in the claims shown on a separate page:

and is of the opinion that the international application does not meet the requirement of unity of the invention for the reasons stated on the separate page,

ii) has performed a partial international search (see enclosure) for the portions of the international application relating to the invention first mentioned in
see the attached page

iii) will provide the International Search Report for the remaining portions of the international application only if additional fees are being paid.

2. Applicant is requested to pay the following amount within thirty days from the above mailing date:

EUR 1,550.00 x 2 = EUR 3,100.00

Attachment to the Request for Payment of Additional Fees

The International Search Authority has determined that this international application contains several (groups) of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1 to 3, 6, 7, 9 to 21, 28, 29

the distance of the roller in respect to the cylinder surface is variable.

2. Claims: 4, 5, 8, 22 to 26

the same dressing transport means for the feeding and removal chute.

3. Claim 27

roller of the dressing storage device for the end phase of unwinding.

The general idea connecting the group of independent claims 1 and 28 with the group of independent claims 4 and 22, as well as with independent claim 27 substantially consists of a "device or a method for drawing-on and/or removing a dressing from a cylinder", wherein the group of claims 1 and 28 is additionally connected with claim 27 by a "contact pressure device having a roller which can be selectively brought into and out of contact", and the group of claims 4 and 22 is connected with claim 27 additionally by a "storage device".

These above mentioned common characteristics are all known and therefore not novel, since for example they ensue from document EP-A-1 084 839 (see paragraphs '0047! and '0048!) mentioned in the application.

Therefore there is no technical connection between the group of independent claims 1 and 28, the group of independent claims 4 and 22 and independent claim 27 within the meaning of Rule 13(2) PCT, so that uniformity in accordance with Rule 13(1) PCT has not been provided.

Translation of the pertinent portions of a response by KBA,
dtd. 02/04/2005

Responsive to the
REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL FEES of 02/01/2005

DEBITING

The additional search fees for two additional
inventions in the amount of 2 X EUR 1,550.00 (= EUR 3,100.00)
should be paid out of our account No. 2800.0836. Form 1010
attached.

Enclosure:

EPA Form 1010

Translation of the pertinent portions of a Notification Regarding Forwarding of the International Search Report and the Written Notification from the International Searching Authority, mailed 04/08/2005

This International Search Report comprises a total of seven pages. Copies of the cited references are enclosed.

3. Lack of Unity of the Invention (see Field III)
4. Regarding the title of the invention
the wording filed by Applicant is approved.
5. Regarding the abstract
the wording filed by Applicant is approved.
6. Fig. 5, as selected by the Office, is to be published with the abstract, since Applicant has not suggested a drawing figure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/051188

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See supplemental sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

The International Searching Authority has determined that this international application contains multiple (groups of) inventions, namely:

1. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-21, 28, 29

Variable spacing between the roller and the cylinder surface.

2. Claims 4, 5, 8, 22-26

Same raising-conveying means for the feed and removal shafts.

3. Claim 27

Roller of the raising-storage arrangement for the final phase of unwinding.

WRITTEN NOTIFICATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY

This notification contains information regarding the
following items:

Field I Basis of the Report

Field III No Preparation of an Expert Opinion Regarding
 Novelty, Inventive Activities and Commercial
 Applicability

Field IV Lack of Unity

Field V Reasoned Determination under Rule 43bis. 1(a)(i)

Field VIII Certain Remarks Regarding the International
 Application

Field I Basis of the Report

[no entries marked in this section]

Field III No Preparation of an Expert Opinion Regarding
 Novelty, Inventive Activities and Commercial
 Applicability

The following portions of the application have not been
examined to determine whether the claimed invention is to be
considered as novel, based on inventive activities (non-
obvious) and commercially applicable:

X Claims 4, 5, 8, 22 to 27

Reasons:

No international search report was prepared for the
entire application or the above mentioned claims 4, 5, 8, 22
to 27.

Field IV Lack of Unity of the Invention

1. Upon the request for payment of additional fees,
Applicant has

X paid additional fees.

3. The Office is of the opinion that the requirement for unity of the invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3

X has been met

4. Therefore the Notification has been prepared for

X all parts

of the international application.

Field V Reasoned Determination under Rule 43bis. 1(a)(i)

1. Determination

Novelty	Yes: Claims 2,3,8,11,14-21,25-29
	No: Claims 1,4-7,9,10,12,13,22-24

Inventive Activities	Yes: Claims 11,14-18,25-29
	No: Claims 2,3,8,19,20

Commercial Applicability	Yes: Claims 1 to 29
	No: Claims

2. Documents and Explanations:

see the attached sheet

Field VIII Certain Remarks Regarding the International Application

see the attached sheet

SHEET ATTACHED TO THE WRITTEN NOTIFICATION

Re.: Item IV

The Office has determined that the international application contains several inventions or groups of inventions, which are not connected by a single common inventive ideas (Rule 13.1 PCT), namely:

I: Claims: 1 to 3, 6, 7, 9 to 21, 28, 29:

Distance of the roller in respect to the cylinder surface is selectively variable.

II: Claims: 4, 5, 8, 22 to 26:

The same dressing transport means for the feeding and removal chute.

III: Claim 27: Unwinding the dressing.

The general idea connecting the group of independent claims 1 and 28 with the group of independent claims 4 and 22, as well as with independent claim 27 substantially consists of a "device or a method for drawing-on and/or removing a dressing from a cylinder", wherein the group of claims 1 and 28 is additionally connected with claim 27 by a "contact pressure device having a roller which can be selectively brought into and out of contact", and the group of claims 4 and 22 is connected with claim 27 additionally by a "storage device".

These above mentioned common characteristics are all known and are therefore not novel, since for example each ensues from document EP-A-1 084 839 (see paragraphs 0047 and 0048) mentioned in the application.

Therefore there is no technical connection between the group of independent claims 1 and 28, the group of independent claims 4 and 22 and independent claim 27 within the meaning of Rule 13(2) PCT, so that uniformity in accordance with Rule 13(1) PCT has not been provided.

Re.: Item V

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP-A-0 679 513

D2: USP 5,406,888

D3: EP-A-0 734 860
D4: DE-A-198 38 777
D5: WO-A-94/06628
D6: DE-A-100 62 774
D7: Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 2000, No. 19, June 5, 2001 and JP 2001 047604 A, February 20, 2001

2. The instant application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject of independent claims 1, 4, 22, as well as dependent claims 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 23 and 24 is not novel within the meaning of Article 33(2) PCT.

2.1 To the extent that claim 1 is understood to mean that the movement of the contact pressure device or of the cross beam is of a higher order than the movement of the roller caused by the drive mechanism, its subject is not novel in view of publication D1.

D1 describes (see the references in the search report) a device for drawing-on and/or removing a dressing (405) with a contact pressure device having a roller (9, 10), wherein the roller is arranged on a cross beam (11) in such a way that by means of a drive mechanism (42) it can be selectively placed against or moved away from a dressing (1) located on the cylinder (7), wherein the cross beam (11) supporting the roller (9, 10) can be moved as a whole in such a way that a distance of the roller (9,10) from the cylinder (7) can be selectively increased.

2.2 In view of the higher order pivotability of the magazine (83) (see Fig. 11) over the roller (118) which is pivotable on it shown in publication D2, D2 anticipates the subject of claim 1 in a manner injurious to novelty.

D2 furthermore discloses that several rollers (118) which are arranged side-by-side in the axial direction on the cross beam (115) can be actuated by a common hollow body (120).

Therefore the subject of claims 1, 6 and 7 is not novel in view of D2.

2.3 Publication D3 discloses (see the references in the search report) a device for drawing-on or removing a dressing (120), with a storage device (102), which has a receiving chute (123) for a dressing to be removed from the cylinder (10), and a feeding chute (124) for a freshly to be drawn on dressing, and at least one transport means (103) for conveying a dressing in the storage device, wherein the

transport means is assigned to both chutes and has holding means (106, 105) assigned to the receiving chute, as well as the feeding chute.

D3 furthermore shows a contact pressure device (107) assigned to the storage device, wherein at least one roller is arranged on a cross beam (rotating shaft of the lever 116) in such a way that it can be selectively placed against and away from a cylinder, or a dressing located on the cylinder, by a hollow body (115), which can be charged with a pressure medium.

The holding means assigned to the transport means are designed in such a way that they provide a frictional connection, which can be stressed for tension and traction in regard to the longitudinal direction of the respective chute, with the dressing.

The lower closure of the vertically extending chutes can be considered to be a holding means, fixed on the frame, against the falling down of the dressings.

Furthermore, D3 discloses a method in accordance with claim 22, wherein the holding means assigned to the transport means are employed alternately.

Therefore publication D3 anticipates the subject of claims 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 22 to 24.

2.4 Publication D4 discloses (see the references in the search report) a device with the characteristics of claims 4, 9, 10 and 12, as well as a method in accordance with claim 22.

2.5 Furthermore, each one of publications D5 and D6 also discloses the characteristics of claims 4 and 22.

3. Dependent claims 2, 3, 8, 19 and 20 do not contain any characteristics which, in combination with the characteristics of any claim from which they depend, meet the requirements of PCT in regard to inventive activities. Claims 2, 3 and 8 ensue in an obvious manner from the combination of publications D1 and D3.

If the holding means in claims 12 and 13 are to be considered as active holding means, these claims ensue in an obvious manner from the publication EP-A-1 084 839.

A flap for closing the feeding chute in accordance with claims 19 and 20 ensues in an obvious manner from publication D4.

4. Publication D7 would have to be considered the closest prior art in respect to the subject of claim 27.

A final statement regarding novelty and inventive activities of this claim can only be made after clarification of the difficulties in understanding it, mentioned in Item VIII which follows.

Re.: Item VIII

Claim 1 and 8:

The expression "selectively" is unclear, because the claims do not make it clear that the movement of the roller consists of two components. On the one hand, in relation to the cross beam by means of the drive mechanism 407, on the other by means of the movement of the cross beam itself. In other words, the movement of the contact pressure device or the cross beam is of a higher order than the movement caused by the drive mechanism.

Claims 25 and 27:

It is not clear from these claims what "inherent tension" of the dressing means.

It is also not clear from the specification (see page 16, paragraph 3) in what direction the roller 412 has to bend the dressing in order to achieve an advantage when removing the dressing from the clamping channel.

Clarification of this by Applicant will be required.

Claims 26, 28 and 29

Taken by itself, the expression "normal position" is not clear.

This, too, requires clarification to the effect that the movement of the contact pressure device is of a higher order than the movement caused by the drive mechanism.

Translation of the pertinent portions of a response by KBA,
dtd. 04/27/2005

**RESPONSIVE TO THE NOTIFICATION REGARDING THE FORWARDING
OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT OR THE DECLARATION
of 04/08/2005**

Claims 1 to 24, amended in accordance with Art. 19 PCT
are being filed.

(Replacement pages 25 to 29, version of 04/27/2005)

Original claims 1, 2, 3, 12, 23 and 24 are cancelled.

New claim 1 has been formed from original claims 4, 12
and 14.

New claims 2 to 17 correspond to original claims 5 to
21, except for the correction of the dependencies.

New claims 18 and 19 are formed from original claims 22
and 23, as well as 22 and 24, wherein in view of D3 a
clarification was made by changing the sentence and the
expression "same". That the holding means 421 and 422 are
arranged on the same holding means ensues from page 13,
paragraph 1, in connection with Fig. 6.

New claims 20 and 22 were clarified in that the
expression "opposite to its inherent tension" was replaced by
a characteristic from the specification on page 16, paragraph
2.

Remarks: In our opinion the principle ensues from both
positions of the roller 412 in Fig. 4 (solid and dashed
lines) in connection with page 16, paragraph 3, that for
bending the printing forme the roller is moved into its path
between the magazine and the shell face of the cylinder
(tangential line!) and thus bends it. In the present case
this imaginary connection line extends approximately between
the outlet of the upper chute (417) of the magazine (also see
Fig. 6 in this connection) and the roller 406 (Fig. 4).

New claims 21, 23 and 24 are formed from claims 26, 28
and 29 and were clarified by the characteristic
"closer"/"farther" to the cylinder, disclosed in the
specification on page 11, last paragraph, in connection with
Fig. 4, as well as the characteristics found on page 9, last
paragraph "having rollers" and "pivoting of the entire
contact pressure device".

Enclosures

Claims, replacement pages 25 to 29, version of 04/27/2005, in triplicate.

Claims

1. A device for drawing-on and/or removing a dressing (405), having storage device (403), which has a receiving chute (418) for a dressing (405) to be removed from the cylinder (304), and a feeding chute (417) for a freshly to be drawn-on dressing (405), and at least one transport means (419) for conveying a dressing (405) in the storage device (403), wherein the transport means (419) is assigned to both chutes (417, 418) and has a holding means (421, 422) assigned to the receiving chute (418) as well as to the feeding chute (417), characterized in that at least one holding means (428, 429), which is fixed to the frame in respect to the storage device (403), is assigned to both of the chutes (417, 418), wherein the connection which can be established with the holding means (428, 429) is embodied as a frictional connection.

2. The device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that a contact pressure device (402) is assigned to the storage device (403), wherein at least one roller (406) is arranged on a cross beam (404) in such a way that by means of a drive mechanism (407) it can be selectively placed against or removed from a cylinder (304) or a dressing (405) on the cylinder (304).

3. The device in accordance with claim 2, characterized in that a hollow body (407), which can be charged with a pressure medium, is provided for actuating the

roller (406).

4. The device in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that a plurality of rollers (406), which are arranged side-by-side in the axial direction on the cross beam (404) can be actuated by a common hollow body (407).

5. The device in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that the contact pressure device (402), or the cross beam (404) supporting the roller (406) can

altogether be moved in such a way that a distance of the roller (406) from the cylinder (304) can be selectively increased.

6. The device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the holding means (421, 422) assigned to the transport means (419) are embodied in such a way that they establish a connection with the dressing (405) which can be stressed for tension and traction in regard to the longitudinal direction of the chute (417, 418).

7. The device in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that the connection which can be established with the holding means (421, 422) is embodied as a frictional connection.

8. The device in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that the holding means (421, 422) are embodied as a hollow body (421, 422), which can be charged with a pressure medium.

9. The device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that at least one holding means (428, 429), which is fixed to the frame in respect to the storage device (403), is assigned to both of the chutes (417, 418).

10. The device in accordance with claim 9, characterized in that the connection which can be established

with the holding means (428, 429) is embodied as a frictional connection.

11. The device in accordance with claim 1 or 9, characterized in that the holding means (428, 429) are embodied as a hollow body (428, 429), which can be charged with a pressure medium.

12. The device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that a passage (425) for at least one of the chutes (417, 418) is provided in the transport means (419), which encloses, at least in part, a dressing (405) located in this chute (417, 418).

13. The device in accordance with claim 12, characterized in that passages (425), which are enclosed by the transport means (419), are arranged in both chutes (417, 418).

14. The device in accordance with claim 12 or 13, characterized in that the holding means (421, 422) are provided on a side assigned to one of the chute sides of the passage (425), and the opposite side is used as a counter-support.

15. The device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that in the area close to the cylinder the storage device (403) has a flap (414) which, in a first position, releases the path of a dressing (405) to be removed into the receiving chute (418), and in a second position releases the path of a dressing (405) to be draw-on out of the feeding chute (417).

16. The device in accordance with claim 15, characterized in that in the first position the feeding chute (417) is closed toward the cylinder (304) by the flap (414) against the removal of a dressing (405).

17. The device in accordance with claim 15, characterized in that in the second position the receiving chute (418) is closed by the flap (414) against the supply of a dressing (405) from the direction of the cylinder (304).

18. A method for drawing-on and/or removing a dressing (405), having a storage device (403), which has a receiving chute (418) for a dressing (405) to be removed from the cylinder (304), and a feeding chute (417) for a freshly to be drawn-on dressing (405), and a transport means (419), characterized in that for conveying a fresh dressing (405) from the feeding chute (417) in the direction toward the cylinder (304), as well as conveying a dressing (405) to be removed from the cylinder (304) into the receiving chute

(418), is performed by the same transport means (419) assigned to the two chutes (417, 418) that, for providing a fresh dressing (405) to the cylinder (304), a holding means (421) at the transport means (419), which is assigned to the feeding chute (417), is activated, and a holding means (422) at the transport means (419), which is assigned to the receiving chute (418), and is located at the same transport means (419), is deactivated.

19. A method for drawing-on and/or removing a dressing (405), having a storage device (403), which has a receiving chute (418) for a dressing (405) to be removed from the cylinder (304), and a feeding chute (417) for a freshly to be drawn-on dressing (405), and a transport means (419), characterized in that for conveying a fresh dressing (405) from the feeding chute (417) in the direction toward the cylinder (304), as well as conveying a dressing (405) to be removed from the cylinder (304) into the receiving chute (418), is performed by the same transport means (419) assigned to the two chutes (417, 418) that, for removing a dressing (405) from the cylinder (304), a holding means (422) at the transport means (419), which is assigned to the receiving chute (418), is activated, and a holding means (421) at the same transport means (419), which is assigned to the feeding chute (417), is deactivated.

20. The method in accordance with claim 19, characterized in that in the course of removing, at least

temporarily in an end phase of the unwinding from the cylinder (304), the dressing (405) is bent by pivoting a roller (412) assigned to the storage device (403) in such a way that the leading end (439) experiences a torque because of the bending of the printing plate (405) in order to be able to escape from the channel in a simpler manner.

21. The method in accordance with claim 19, characterized in that in the course of the removal, and at least temporarily during an end phase of the unwinding from the cylinder (304), a contact pressure device (402) having

roller (406) is brought by pivoting of the entire contact pressure device (402), or of a cross beam (406) supporting the rollers (406), from a position closer to the cylinder (304) into a position which is farther removed from the cylinder (304).

22. A method for removing a dressing (405), having a storage device (403) and contact pressure device (402) with at least one roller (406), which can be selectively brought into and out of contact, characterized in that, at least temporarily in an end phase of the unwinding from the cylinder (304), the dressing (304) is bent by pivoting a roller (412) assigned to the storage device (403) in such a way that the leading end (439) experiences a torque because of the bending of the printing plate (405) in order to be able to escape from the channel in a simpler manner.

23. A method for removing a dressing (405), having a storage device (403) and contact pressure device (402) with at least one roller (406), which can be selectively brought into and out of contact, characterized in that, at least temporarily in an end phase of the unwinding from the cylinder (304), a contact pressure device (402) having rollers (406) is brought from a position in which it is located closer to the cylinder (304) into a position which is farther removed from the cylinder (304), by pivoting the entire contact pressure device (402), or of a cross beam (404) supporting the rollers (406).

24. The method in accordance with claim 22 or 23, characterized in that, during the preceding phase of unwinding, the contact pressure device (402) is in position, in which it is closer to the cylinder (304), and the roller (406) is moved relative to the cross beam (404) by a drive mechanism (407) and in this way is placed against the dressing (304) to be unwound, and in the end phase is moved away.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received at the international office May 03, 2005 (05/03/2005)
original claims 1-29 replaced by amended claims 1-24 (5 pages)]

Claims

1. A device for drawing-on and/or removing a dressing (405), having storage device (403), which has a receiving chute (418) for a dressing (405) to be removed from the cylinder (304), and a feeding chute (417) for a freshly to be drawn-on dressing (405), and at least one transport means (419) for conveying a dressing (405) in the storage device (403), wherein the transport means (419) is assigned to both chutes (417, 418) and has a holding means (421, 422) assigned to the receiving chute (418) as well as to the feeding chute (417), characterized in that at least one holding means (428, 429), which is fixed to the frame in respect to the storage device (403), is assigned to both of the chutes (417, 418), wherein the connection which can be established with the holding means (428, 429) is embodied as a frictional connection.

2. The device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that a contact pressure device (402) is assigned to the storage device (403), wherein at least one roller (406) is arranged on a cross beam (404) in such a way that by means of a drive mechanism (407) it can be selectively placed against or removed from a cylinder (304)

or a dressing (405) on the cylinder (304).

3. The device in accordance with claim 2, characterized in that a hollow body (407), which can be charged with a pressure medium, is provided for actuating the roller (406).

4. The device in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that a plurality of rollers (406), which are arranged side-by-side in the axial direction on the cross beam (404) can be actuated by a common hollow body (407).

5. The device in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that the contact pressure device (402), or the cross beam (404) supporting the roller (406) can

altogether be moved in such a way that a distance of the roller (406) from the cylinder (304) can be selectively increased.

6. The device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the holding means (421, 422) assigned to the transport means (419) are embodied in such a way that they establish a connection with the dressing (405) which can be stressed for tension and traction in regard to the longitudinal direction of the chute (417, 418).

7. The device in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that the connection which can be established with the holding means (421, 422) is embodied as a frictional connection.

8. The device in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that the holding means (421, 422) are embodied as a hollow body (421, 422), which can be charged with a pressure medium.

9. The device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that at least one holding means (428, 429), which is fixed to the frame in respect to the storage device (403), is assigned to both of the chutes (417, 418).

10. The device in accordance with claim 9, characterized in that the connection which can be established

with the holding means (428, 429) is embodied as a frictional connection.

11. The device in accordance with claim 1 or 9, characterized in that the holding means (428, 429) are embodied as a hollow body (428, 429), which can be charged with a pressure medium.

12. The device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that a passage (425) for at least one of the chutes (417, 418) is provided in the transport means (419), which encloses, at least in part, a dressing (405) located in this chute (417, 418).

13. The device in accordance with claim 12, characterized in that passages (425), which are enclosed by the transport means (419), are arranged in both chutes (417, 418).

14. The device in accordance with claim 12 or 13, characterized in that the holding means (421, 422) are provided on a side assigned to one of the chute sides of the passage (425), and the opposite side is used as a counter-support.

15. The device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that in the area close to the cylinder the storage device (403) has a flap (414) which, in a first position, releases the path of a dressing (405) to be removed into the receiving chute (418), and in a second position releases the path of a dressing (405) to be draw-on out of the feeding chute (417).

16. The device in accordance with claim 15, characterized in that in the first position the feeding chute (417) is closed toward the cylinder (304) by the flap (414) against the removal of a dressing (405).

17. The device in accordance with claim 15, characterized in that in the second position the receiving chute (418) is closed by the flap (414) against the supply of a dressing (405) from the direction of the cylinder (304).

18. A method for drawing-on and/or removing a dressing (405), having a storage device (403), which has a receiving chute (418) for a dressing (405) to be removed from the cylinder (304), and a feeding chute (417) for a freshly to be drawn-on dressing (405), and a transport means (419), characterized in that for conveying a fresh dressing (405) from the feeding chute (417) in the direction toward the cylinder (304), as well as conveying a dressing (405) to be removed from the cylinder (304) into the receiving chute

(418), is performed by the same transport means (419) assigned to the two chutes (417, 418) that, for providing a fresh dressing (405) to the cylinder (304), a holding means (421) at the transport means (419), which is assigned to the feeding chute (417), is activated, and a holding means (422) at the transport means (419), which is assigned to the receiving chute (418), and is located at the same transport means (419), is deactivated.

19. A method for drawing-on and/or removing a dressing (405), having a storage device (403), which has a receiving chute (418) for a dressing (405) to be removed from the cylinder (304), and a feeding chute (417) for a freshly to be drawn-on dressing (405), and a transport means (419), characterized in that for conveying a fresh dressing (405) from the feeding chute (417) in the direction toward the cylinder (304), as well as conveying a dressing (405) to be removed from the cylinder (304) into the receiving chute (418), is performed by the same transport means (419) assigned to the two chutes (417, 418) that, for removing a dressing (405) from the cylinder (304), a holding means (422) at the transport means (419), which is assigned to the receiving chute (418), is activated, and a holding means (421) at the same transport means (419), which is assigned to the feeding chute (417), is deactivated.

20. The method in accordance with claim 19, characterized in that in the course of removing, at least

temporarily in an end phase of the unwinding from the cylinder (304), the dressing (405) is bent by pivoting a roller (412) assigned to the storage device (403) in such a way that the leading end (439) experiences a torque because of the bending of the printing plate (405) in order to be able to escape from the channel in a simpler manner.

21. The method in accordance with claim 19, characterized in that in the course of the removal, and at least temporarily during an end phase of the unwinding from the cylinder (304), a contact pressure device (402) having

roller (406) is brought by pivoting of the entire contact pressure device (402), or of a cross beam (406) supporting the rollers (406), from a position closer to the cylinder (304) into a position which is farther removed from the cylinder (304).

22. A method for removing a dressing (405), having a storage device (403) and contact pressure device (402) with at least one roller (406), which can be selectively brought into and out of contact, characterized in that, at least temporarily in an end phase of the unwinding from the cylinder (304), the dressing (304) is bent by pivoting a roller (412) assigned to the storage device (403) in such a way that the leading end (439) experiences a torque because of the bending of the printing plate (405) in order to be able to escape from the channel in a simpler manner.

23. A method for removing a dressing (405), having a storage device (403) and contact pressure device (402) with at least one roller (406), which can be selectively brought into and out of contact, characterized in that, at least temporarily in an end phase of the unwinding from the cylinder (304), a contact pressure device (402) having rollers (406) is brought from a position in which it is located closer to the cylinder (304) into a position which is farther removed from the cylinder (304), by pivoting the entire contact pressure device (402), or of a cross beam (404) supporting the rollers (406).

24. The method in accordance with claim 22 or 23, characterized in that, during the preceding phase of unwinding, the contact pressure device (402) is in position, in which it is closer to the cylinder (304), and the roller (406) is moved relative to the cross beam (404) by a drive mechanism (407) and in this way is placed against the dressing (304) to be unwound, and in the end phase is moved away.

Translation of the pertinent portions of a Notification Regarding the Forwarding of the International Preliminary Report in Regard to Patentability, mailed 10/21/2005

2. This REPORT comprises a total of 8 pages, including this cover page.

3. ATTACHMENTS have been attached to this report, these contain

a. X (sent to applicant and the International Office) a total of 5 pages.

4. This report contains information regarding the following items:

- I Basis of the Report
- IV Lack of Unity of the Invention
- V Reasoned Determination under Article 35(2)
- VII Certain Defects of the International Application

Field No. I Basis of the Report

1. Regarding the **language** the report is based on the International Application in the language in which it was filed, if nothing different has been noted under this point.

2. Regarding the **contents** of the International Application, this report is based on

Specification, pages

1 to 24 in the originally filed version.

Claims, nos.

1 to 24 in the version amended in accordance with Article 19 (if required, with an explanation)

Drawings, sheets

1/12 - 12/12 in the originally filed version.

Field IV Lack of Unity of the Invention

1. Upon a request to limit the claims or paying additional fees, Applicant has

X paid additional fees

3. The Office is of the opinion that the requirement of unity of the invention under Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3

x was not met for the following reasons:

see the attached sheet

4. Therefore this report was prepared for

x all parts of the international application.

Field V Reasoned Determination under Article 35(2)

1. Determination

Novelty	Yes: Claims 1-17, 20, 21, 23, 24 No: Claims 18, 19, 22
Inventive Activities	Yes: Claims 1-17, 20, 21, 23, 24 No: Claims 18, 19, 22
Commercial Applicability	Yes: Claims 1 to 24 No: Claims

2. References and Explanations (Rule 70.7):

see the attached sheet

Field VII Certain Defects of the International Application

It has been determined that the international application has the following defects in regard to form or contents:

see the attached sheet

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

ATTACHED SHEET

Re.: Item IV

This Office has determined that the international application contains several inventions or groups of inventions, which are not connected by a single common inventive ideas (Rule 13.1 PCT), namely:

I: Claim: 1

"Holding means fixed on the frame with frictional connection"

II: Claims: 18 and 19

"Control of the holding means attached to the transport means during the feeding and removal of the printing plates"

III: Claim 22

"Freeing the leading end of the printing plate from the channel by means of bending it with a roller"

IV: Claim 23

"Increasing the distance of the rollers from the cylinder in the end phase of unwinding"

The general idea connecting the independent claims, or the group of claims 1, 18 and 19, 22, as well as 23, with each other substantially consists of a "device or a method for drawing-on and/or removing a dressing from a cylinder with a feeding and removal chute, transport means with holding means attached thereto for dressings, as well as a roller, which can be brought into and out of contact".

These above mentioned common characteristics are all known from document EP-A-1 084 839 and are therefore not novel.

The characteristics remaining in the respective claims do not technically correspond and attain different objects.

Therefore there is no technical connection between the independent claims or group of claims 1, 18 and 19, 22, as well as 23, within the meaning of Rule 13(2) PCT, so that

uniformity in accordance with Rule 13(1) PCT has not been provided.

Re.: Item V

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP-A-0 734 860

D2: Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 2000, No. 19, June 5, 2001 and JP 2001 047604 A, February 20, 2001

D3: EP-A-O 679 513

2. Invention I:

Publication D1, which is considered to be the closest prior art in connection with the subject of claim 1, discloses (see the references in the search report) a device for drawing-on and/or removing a dressing (120), having a storage device (102), which has a receiving chute (123) for a dressing to be removed from the cylinder (101), and a feeding chute (124) for a freshly to be drawn-on dressing, and at least one transport means (103) for conveying a dressing in the storage device, wherein the transport means is assigned to both chutes and has a holding means (106, 105) assigned to the receiving chute as well as to the feeding chute.

Furthermore in D1 (Figs. 4 and 5) the vertically arranged feeding and removal chutes are closed toward the bottom. This closing is to be understood as a holding means fixed to the frame within the meaning of claim 1.

Accordingly, the subject of claim 1 differs from the device from D1 in that the connection which can be provided with the holding means fixed on the frame is embodied as a frictional connection.

Therefore claim 1 is novel.

In accordance with the information in the application, in contrast to a positive connection, a frictional connection between the holding means and the printing forme makes possible in a simple way the use of printing formes of different formats, without new settings and/or additional recesses, hooks, stops or the like being necessary for this.

The known publications were not capable, either considered by themselves or in combination with each other, to suggest the subject with the characteristics of claim 1 for the stated purpose.

Therefore claim 1 is based on inventive activities and, together with the advantageous further developments of

dependent claims 2 to 17, meets the requirements of Article 33(1) to (4) PCT.

It should be noted that for reasons of clarity (Article 6 PCT), the holding means last mentioned in claim 1 should have been identified as being "fixed to the frame".

3. Invention II:

The present invention does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject of claims 18 and 19 is not novel within the meaning of Article 33(2) PCT.

Publication D1 describes a method for drawing-on and/or removing a dressing (120), having a storage device (102), which has a receiving chute (123) for a dressing to be removed from the cylinder (101), and a feeding chute (124) for a freshly to be drawn-on dressing, and a transport means (103), wherein conveying a fresh dressing from the feeding chute (124) to the cylinder (101), as well as conveying a dressing to be removed from the cylinder into the receiving chute (123), is performed by the same transport means (103) assigned to the two chutes (123, 124).

Publication D1 also describes (see in particular column 4, line 43 to column 5, line 34) that, for feeding a fresh dressing to the cylinder, a holding means (105) at the transport means (103), which is assigned to the receiving chute (123), is deactivated and that, for removing a dressing from the cylinder, a holding means (106) on the transport means (103) assigned to the receiving chute (123) is activated, and a holding means (105) on the same transport means (103) assigned to the feeding chute (124) is deactivated.

Therefore claims 18 and 19 are anticipated by D1.

4. Invention III:

The present invention does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject of claim 22 is not novel within the meaning of Article 33(2) PCT.

Publication D2 describes (see the abstract and Fig. 3c of the JP-A publication in particular) a method for removing a dressing (13), having a storage device (20a) and a contact pressure device (45) with at least one roller (26), which can be selectively brought into and out of contact, wherein the dressing (13) is bent, at least at times during an end phase of the unwinding from the cylinder (9a), by pivoting a roller (27) assigned to the storage device (20a) in such a way that the leading end experiences a torque by means of the bending

of the printing plate in order to escape more easily from the channel.

5. Invention IV:

Publication D3, which is considered to be the closest prior art in respect to the subject of claim 23, discloses (see the references in the search report) a method for removing a dressing (1), having a storage device (2) and a contact pressure device (11), which can be brought into and out of contact, and which has at least one roller (9,10), which can be selectively brought into and out of contact.

The method in accordance with claim 23 differs from this in that, at least at times during an end phase of the unwinding from the cylinder, a contact pressure device which has rollers is brought from a position closer to the cylinder to a position farther distant from the cylinder by pivoting the entire contact pressure device, or a cross beam supporting the rollers.

Claim 23 is therefore novel.

In accordance with information in the specification (see page 16, paragraph 4), the characteristics of claim 23 attain the object of removing the leading end of the printing plate more simply from the channel.

The known publications were not capable, either considered by themselves or in combination with each other, to suggest the subject with the characteristics of claim 23 for the stated purpose.

Therefore claim 23 is based on inventive activities and, together with the advantageous further developments of dependent claim 24, meets the requirements of Article 33(1) to (4) PCT.

Re.: Item VII

The specification is not in accord with the claims, as prescribed in Rule 5.1 a) iii) PCT.

Claims

1. A device for drawing-on and/or removing a dressing (405), having storage device (403), which has a receiving chute (418) for a dressing (405) to be removed from the cylinder (304), and a feeding chute (417) for a freshly to be drawn-on dressing (405), and at least one transport means (419) for conveying a dressing (405) in the storage device (403), wherein the transport means (419) is assigned to both chutes (417, 418) and has a holding means (421, 422) assigned to the receiving chute (418) as well as to the feeding chute (417), characterized in that at least one holding means (428, 429), which is fixed to the frame in respect to the storage device (403), is assigned to both of the chutes (417, 418), wherein the connection which can be established with the holding means (428, 429) is embodied as a frictional connection.

2. The device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that a contact pressure device (402) is assigned to the storage device (403), wherein at least one roller (406) is arranged on a cross beam (404) in such a way that by means of a drive mechanism (407) it can be selectively placed against or removed from a cylinder (304) or a dressing (405) on the cylinder (304).

3. The device in accordance with claim 2, characterized in that a hollow body (407), which can be

charged with a pressure medium, is provided for actuating the roller (406).

4. The device in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that a plurality of rollers (406), which are arranged side-by-side in the axial direction on the cross beam (404) can be actuated by a common hollow body (407).

5. The device in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that the contact pressure device (402), or the cross beam (404) supporting the roller (406) can

altogether be moved in such a way that a distance of the roller (406) from the cylinder (304) can be selectively increased.

6. The device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the holding means (421, 422) assigned to the transport means (419) are embodied in such a way that they establish a connection with the dressing (405) which can be stressed for tension and traction in regard to the longitudinal direction of the chute (417, 418).

7. The device in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that the connection which can be established with the holding means (421, 422) is embodied as a frictional connection.

8. The device in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that the holding means (421, 422) are embodied as a hollow body (421, 422), which can be charged with a pressure medium.

9. The device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that at least one holding means (428, 429), which is fixed to the frame in respect to the storage device (403), is assigned to both of the chutes (417, 418).

10. The device in accordance with claim 9,

characterized in that the connection which can be established with the holding means (428, 429) is embodied as a frictional connection.

11. The device in accordance with claim 1 or 9, characterized in that the holding means (428, 429) are embodied as a hollow body (428, 429), which can be charged with a pressure medium.

12. The device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that a passage (425) for at least one of the chutes (417, 418) is provided in the transport means (419), which encloses, at least in part, a dressing (405) located in this chute (417, 418).

13. The device in accordance with claim 12, characterized in that passages (425), which are enclosed by the transport means (419), are arranged in both chutes (417, 418).

14. The device in accordance with claim 12 or 13, characterized in that the holding means (421, 422) are provided on a side assigned to one of the chute sides of the passage (425), and the opposite side is used as a counter-support.

15. The device in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that in the area close to the cylinder the storage device (403) has a flap (414) which, in a first position, releases the path of a dressing (405) to be removed into the receiving chute (418), and in a second position releases the path of a dressing (405) to be draw-on out of the feeding chute (417).

16. The device in accordance with claim 15, characterized in that in the first position the feeding chute (417) is closed toward the cylinder (304) by the flap (414) against the removal of a dressing (405).

17. The device in accordance with claim 15, characterized in that in the second position the receiving chute (418) is closed by the flap (414) against the supply of a dressing (405) from the direction of the cylinder (304).

18. A method for drawing-on and/or removing a dressing (405), having a storage device (403), which has a receiving chute (418) for a dressing (405) to be removed from the cylinder (304), and a feeding chute (417) for a freshly to be drawn-on dressing (405), and a transport means (419), characterized in that for conveying a fresh dressing (405) from the feeding chute (417) in the direction toward the cylinder (304), as well as conveying a dressing (405) to be removed from the cylinder (304) into the receiving chute

(418), is performed by the same transport means (419) assigned to the two chutes (417, 418) that, for providing a fresh dressing (405) to the cylinder (304), a holding means (421) at the transport means (419), which is assigned to the feeding chute (417), is activated, and a holding means (422) at the transport means (419), which is assigned to the receiving chute (418), and is located at the same transport means (419), is deactivated.

19. A method for drawing-on and/or removing a dressing (405), having a storage device (403), which has a receiving chute (418) for a dressing (405) to be removed from the cylinder (304), and a feeding chute (417) for a freshly to be drawn-on dressing (405), and a transport means (419), characterized in that for conveying a fresh dressing (405) from the feeding chute (417) in the direction toward the cylinder (304), as well as conveying a dressing (405) to be removed from the cylinder (304) into the receiving chute (418), is performed by the same transport means (419) assigned to the two chutes (417, 418) that, for removing a dressing (405) from the cylinder (304), a holding means (422) at the transport means (419), which is assigned to the receiving chute (418), is activated, and a holding means (421) at the same transport means (419), which is assigned to the feeding chute (417), is deactivated.

20. The method in accordance with claim 19,

characterized in that in the course of removing, at least temporarily in an end phase of the unwinding from the cylinder (304), the dressing (405) is bent by pivoting a roller (412) assigned to the storage device (403) in such a way that the leading end (439) experiences a torque because of the bending of the printing plate (405) in order to be able to escape from the channel in a simpler manner.

21. The method in accordance with claim 19, characterized in that in the course of the removal, and at least temporarily during an end phase of the unwinding from the cylinder (304), a contact pressure device (402) having

roller (406) is brought by pivoting of the entire contact pressure device (402), or of a cross beam (406) supporting the rollers (406), from a position closer to the cylinder (304) into a position which is farther removed from the cylinder (304).

22. A method for removing a dressing (405), having a storage device (403) and contact pressure device (402) with at least one roller (406), which can be selectively brought into and out of contact, characterized in that, at least temporarily in an end phase of the unwinding from the cylinder (304), the dressing (304) is bent by pivoting a roller (412) assigned to the storage device (403) in such a way that the leading end (439) experiences a torque because of the bending of the printing plate (405) in order to be able to escape from the channel in a simpler manner.

23. A method for removing a dressing (405), having a storage device (403) and contact pressure device (402) with at least one roller (406), which can be selectively brought into and out of contact, characterized in that, at least temporarily in an end phase of the unwinding from the cylinder (304), a contact pressure device (402) having rollers (406) is brought from a position in which it is located closer to the cylinder (304) into a position which is farther removed from the cylinder (304), by pivoting the entire contact pressure device (402), or of a cross beam

(404) supporting the rollers (406).

24. The method in accordance with claim 22 or 23, characterized in that, during the preceding phase of unwinding, the contact pressure device (402) is in position, in which it is closer to the cylinder (304), and the roller (406) is moved relative to the cross beam (404) by a drive mechanism (407) and in this way is placed against the dressing (304) to be unwound, and in the end phase is moved away.